

## The Sun

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## Wall Street.

Wall Street will now probably hear no more of the many explanations which have been rife for the past two weeks respecting the course of the market. It will shamefacedly abandon all of the theories that it most tenaciously clung to, theories more ingenious than creditable and best forgotten as soon as possible.

The Stock Exchange can stand disaster admirably, prospering indifferently, but uncertainty not at all. When it does not know what is going on it invents a cause, and, having invented it, cultivates, adorns and embroiders it until it assumes the proportions of a panic. When the real conditions are disclosed Wall Street forgets everything and atones and apologizes never.

Wall Street has seen the country at large prosperous as never before, the universal commercial movement sound, wholesome and of unprecedented volume, the railroads distressed solely because they cannot hope to handle the enormous bulk of the trade in sight for the approaching fall, and only the Stock Exchange and the New York money market in trouble. To explain this condition Wall Street has not hesitated to invent the most disreputable and malignant hypotheses and to give currency to gratuitous and infamous falsehoods. All this is perhaps best mended in Wall Street's own way, which is silence and oblivion.

The Street is now inclined to believe that it has been treated to a very drastic and painful purgation and to admit that the remedy was essential. The modern idea of making money out of the great enterprises of capital by processes not unlike those now being brought to light in the building trade, the new idea of scientific blackmail, infinitely more reprehensible on the part of the capitalist and speculator than on the part of the walking delegate, this new development of recent years is now seen to have received a check. Nothing could be more wholesome, nothing more needed for the welfare of the body politic. The consignment of capitalistic bushwhackers and blackmailers to the limbo of bankruptcy and the sending to the penitentiary of the ruffians who rob and plunder their employers and dishonor the labor unions—these things surely make for the common good.

## The Great Future of the Town of Tumut.

Since the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia on Jan. 1, 1901, the seat of its Government has been at Melbourne, the second largest city on the continent and the capital of Victoria, one of the six "Original States" of the young Commonwealth. The arrangement has been temporary, local feeling preventing the choice of any existing State capital as the permanent seat of Government for the Commonwealth; and early in 1901 a commission was appointed to choose the site for the Federal Capital. Its first choice lay among the towns of Orange, 150 miles northwest of Sydney, Bumbah, 100 miles due west, and Yass, 200 miles southwest of the same city. None of these towns proving acceptable to the Parliament, the commission has now picked out the town of Tumut, 264 miles southwest of Sydney, on a river of the same name, and at present the county town of Wymondbury district. It is in the centre of a rich agricultural district, and has a population of rather more than 1,500.

It would be of interest to know if any "inspired lobbyist," as in Col. De Forest's story, was able to line his pockets by playing Orange, Bumbah and Yass, one against the other, and finally causing the selection of Tumut. Fiction, as is known, sometimes becomes fact.

Few countries have had to create capitals. Certain cities have become seats of government by force of circumstances, without protest. It is when separate States or districts, each with its own capital town, have been united under one government that entirely new capitals have had to be chosen; and the important instances of such choice are few.

The creation of a capital city for the new United States is the first instance in modern times, though the choice of Byzantium as the capital of the Eastern Empire is an earlier case. The founding of St. Petersburg is not parallel, as, even to the present day, it has not wholly superseded Moscow as the capital of Russia, and it was planned largely as a fortress. The selection of a site on the Potomac near Georgetown as the capital was made with "much tribulation," HAMILTON using it as a means of winning over votes to pass his act by which the nation assumed the revolutionary war debts of the States. Wright's Ferry, Harrisburg, Germantown, were some of the places suggested as preferable to the district finally chosen. Work upon the Federal buildings began in 1793, and on Sept. 18 of that year the cornerstone of the Capitol was laid. On May 28, 1800, the Secretary of State caused this notice to be posted on the door of his office in Philadelphia:

"The office of the Department of State will be removed this day from Philadelphia. All letters and applications are therefore to be addressed to that Department at the City of Washington from this date."

Since that date, the city of Washington, called into being solely to serve as the

seat of the Government of the United States, has been the capital.

Canada offers the second instance of the creation of a capital city. The reunion of the provinces of Upper Canada, with its capital at Kingston, and Lower Canada, with its government at Quebec, was completed on Feb. 10, 1841, with Kingston as the first meeting place of the United Parliament of Canada. During the next seventeen years the capital of Canada was at Kingston and at Montreal. In 1855 Queen VICTORIA chose Ottawa, previously known as Bytown, for the site of the permanent capital. On Sept. 1, 1860, the Prince of Wales, then on his famous visit to Canada and the United States, laid the corner-stone of the Dominion buildings, which, it is of interest to know, were built from plans drawn by the architect who later planned the Capitol at Albany, THOMAS FULTON.

The Government of the Province of Canada was moved to Ottawa in 1855, where in 1867 the Dominion Government succeeded it.

Tumut—a palindrome, by the way—it shall be chosen as the site of the Australian capital, will doubtless lose its name. Bytown became Ottawa only a short time before Ottawa became the Canadian capital; and Washington was a place without a name, "near Georgetown on the Potomac" when it was selected. So Tumut, under its new name, will be in good company. Its growth, with corner-site speculators opposing Governmental requirements, will be interesting. Great towns have grown from small beginnings, but it is not often that a town is laid out with the knowledge that in time it will be an important city. Most cities have grown accidentally; Washington, Ottawa and Tumut were and are destined for importance from the first.

**England's Relation to Japan.**

On Thursday, July 23, in the House of Commons, Lord CRANBORN, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the British Government shared the uneasiness evinced by its ally, Japan, at the prolongation of Russia's occupation of Manchuria, which, had the promise given by the St. Petersburg Foreign Office been kept, would have been evacuated last April. He went on to describe the Russian Government as a "despotism" which the Czar himself would scarcely deny, but expressed the opinion that it was not homogeneous, two parties existing at the Court which were not agreed as to the course to be pursued in Manchuria.

It would be easy to exaggerate the significance attaching to the description of Japan as an ally. The treaty of alliance concluded with the Mikado does not bind Great Britain to assist him in the event of his becoming engaged in a single-handed contest with the Czar. England's support cannot be claimed until Japan finds herself assailed by two Powers at once. That Russia can secure the aid of France if she asks or it usually taken for granted, but the recently improved relations between France and England might render the Paris Government reluctant to take a step which would necessarily convert England into an enemy. It is probable that Russia, underrating the military and naval efficiency of the Japanese, will refrain from seeking cooperation on the part of France, unless she should encounter a severe reverse, and even then she may deem it doubtful whether French aid would not be more than offset by England's enmity.

The Russian Generals in Manchuria seem to be quite confident of their ability to beat the Japanese, so far as operations on the mainland are concerned, while, on the other hand, the Mikado's subjects feel sure of victory if they have to deal with the Russians alone. There is no doubt that a war, if confined to Russia and Japan, would be one of the most interesting of modern times. It would test, as nothing else could, the solidity of the progress with which Japan has been credited, and it would also test the competence of the St. Petersburg Government to maintain a long and exhausting conflict at the further end of Siberia what it failed to do in the Crimea? We believe that the contest would be a long one, because the Japanese are a high-spirited people, not to be daunted by one or two early defeats, and they are in a position to throw large bodies of troops into Korea. Moreover, even if their navy should be beaten by the Russian, which is improbable, they need not dread invasion.

Should they succeed in capturing Port Arthur, and in expelling the Russians from Manchuria, the prestige of the St. Petersburg Government would suffer an eclipse, and years might elapse before Russia could resume her movement toward ascendancy in the Far East. In the meantime Japan's reputation would be so heightened that the Chinese might be inclined to accept her claim to the hegemony of the Mongolian race.

## The Insomnia of Mr. Towne.

The Hon. CHARLES ARNETTE TOWNE, once of Minnesota and now very much of New York, is getting insomnia. Here he is, a prosperous gentleman, still subject to occasional gushes of oratory, but much more interested in gushes of oil. He has thoroughly recovered from the Curse of God, which gave him so much uneasiness a few years ago. He now appreciates the Blessing of Gold, and especially the Blessing of Oil. His path drops fatness. Even if there is not money enough in the country, he is saving a generous hunk of what there is; and he is devoted to increasing the size of that hunk. He is a plain business man, with very little time to weep over the woes, if he can still find any, of "the plain people."

He is up to his neck in aggregated capital. He is a man of syndicates and monopolies. All he asks is to be let alone. But some of his Democratic friends will not let him alone. They see in him the Democratic Moses; and they insist upon yanking him forth from his seclusion among the bull-rushes and the bear-rushes. A Washington dispatch to the *Tribune* tells the appreciation and the hope of the admirers of the transplanted Gopher:

"CHARLES A. TOWNE is going to be selected by the convention after others have been put up and

failed. He is not a candidate. He may not be a candidate until the eve of the convention. He is making money. Lord Salisbury said at a private banquet that Mr. Towne was America's greatest orator of the present generation. But the ex-orator is more than an orator. He is a statesman. He is fearless. He is acquainted with the party wants and the party capacity, and will not let the former push the latter beyond its limit. Mr. TOWNE is yet young. He has had a brilliant career in Congress. He hails from the West. He lives in the oil fields which is the hope of the conservative Democrat for the future. He is now a favorite of Tammany. Mr. TOWNE can beat ROOSEVELT. No other man can—at least, no other man whose name has been suggested."

Mr. ROOSEVELT is an Eastern man with a Western heart. Mr. TOWNE is a Western man with an Eastern head. As a capitalist, he must have the confidence of capital. As a graduate of Silver Republicanism, he must be dear to the silver men. As the self-sacrificing statesman who gave up the Silver Republican and Populist nominations for Vice-President in 1900, for the benefit of the Silver Democracy, he must be treasured by all the unrepentant Bryanites and all the surviving Populists, if any there are. He used to be near to the bosom of Mr. BRYAN. He is at once a relic of calamity and a monument of prosperity. He has suffered with "the producing classes" and the makers of Democratic, Silver Republican and Populist platforms. He is rejoicing in combinations of wealth. What other Democrat is so many-sided, so fitted by sympathy and experience to be the middle way and bridge of harmony between Bryanism and conservatism?

Mr. TOWNE may be too modest to be conscious of all his qualifications, but the murmur of his friends is already loud enough to disturb or prevent his sleep. The Democratic CINCINNATI fears to be taken away from his oil farms and his coupon shears.

## Religion and the Public Schools.

The question of religious education for the public schools is interesting many of our correspondents to-day. Mr. GREEN, one of the teachers, argues that some sort of religious training is necessary for the full development of a child's character; but what sort shall it be, asks another correspondent, in a community of Christians and Jews, Catholics, Protestants and infidels? Still another questions if the actual results of the religious teaching in the Catholic parochial schools are as good as those in the public schools.

The need of religious training for the young generation is now engaging special attention among the Jews. We made a quotation the other day from a paper by a Jew of the orthodox school, the school in which are the great majority of the Jews who have come to this country from eastern Europe during the last twenty years—the Jews who inhabit the East Side Ghetto, the most numerous community of that race in the world. This Jew laments that the American Jews, even those of the strictest orthodox inheritance, are falling away from Judaism as a religion. Another Jew writes to us to-day confirming his observation of that tendency, but glorying in it. He rejoices to see the younger generation emancipating themselves from "bigoted orthodoxy," as he calls it.

Both these writers seem to look on the education the children are receiving as responsible for this new Jewish thought. "The first finds a 'great danger' in the complete secularizing of the education of Jewish children." Even where there is a "homopathic dose of religion," however sufficient it may be for the "non-Jewish child," it is not enough for the Jewish boy or girl, who needs Jewish knowledge, if not faith, "else the 'sapping' of Jewish strength' will go on." "The task of the religiousists must be to capture the younger generation," he declares; and the same sentiment influences Christians who are demanding religious teaching in the public schools, on the theory that the school should be primarily a training ground, a nursery, for the Church.

We are glad to observe, however, that this orthodox Jew does not make any demand for the introduction of Judaism into the public schools and does not find fault with them because it is not there. He calls on the orthodox Jews themselves to provide the religious teaching; and for that reason he is an advocate of Zionism, in which Judaism and Jewish practices should be preserved by legislation from the "gradual decay" which is going on in non-Jewish lands.

The Jew whose letter we print to-day regards that decay as only hopeful, and he seems to be representative of a sentiment which is steadily increasing among his race in this country and, perhaps, more especially in this city. The Jews, instead of looking askance at the public schools because they are assisting so powerfully in bringing about this "gradual decay," are eager to have their children enjoy the advantages of the public school education, in the primary and grammar schools, and in the colleges, though, unquestionably, it is transforming their younger generation, so that "orthodoxy is now an affair of the elders; young men are not religious" according to the orthodox standard.

The Roman Catholic Church, which looks on religious training of the young as a primary religious obligation, is staggering under a tremendous burden of expense in order to maintain its parochial schools and among Protestants there has always been a demand that the Bible should be read in the public schools. But nobody has been able to solve the problem of a scheme of public religious instruction which shall be equitable and consistent with our principles of government. Even if the Jews are not now the most numerous of all the races here, they soon will be. The Roman Catholic population is at least a third of the whole. If we are guided at all by the church attendance as indicative of religious belief, the majority of the people of the town are infidels or indifferent to religion. Actually, too, the public schools, without the religious instruction Mr. GREEN wants, are crowded and therefore are satisfactory to parents, apparently. So great is the steady increase in the demand for school accommodations that the city is taxed to the utmost to meet it, though

the parochial schools of the Roman Catholic Church are numerous.

Moreover, the denial by one of our correspondents to-day that the children coming from the schools are showing a practical moral declension because of the absence of public religious instruction is deserving of serious consideration.

## The Bosco Reale Frescos.

The importance of the acquisition by the Metropolitan Museum of Art of the Bosco Reale frescos can hardly be overestimated. It shows that the Museum is not only able but ready to compete with the great museums of Europe in the hunt for first-class objects of art brought to light in the excavations that are being carried on in classic lands, in Egypt, Greece, Babylonia, Africa, Italy.

The frescos from the Bosco Reale villa are the finest products of ancient painting that have yet been found. They surpass in brilliant color, in drawing and composition the wall pictures of Pompeii and those from the Palatine hill in Rome. That was the judgment of the committee of experts appointed by the Italian Government to inspect them on the ground, which recommended unanimously that the Government should buy them, and that was the opinion, too, of competent American judges who saw them in the Bosco Reale excavation and later in the Paris auction room.

They are splendid examples of the Alexandrine school of painting, executed before it fell into decay. They were painted certainly before the eruption of 79, and very probably, from a date found on the villa wall, before the year 12, that is, while AUGUSTUS was still alive. We shall be able here in New York to study at first hand a period of flourishing ancient art that is strangely close to early periods of modern painting.

There need be no sentimental regret at the removal of these frescos from the place where they were found. The villa excavation is merely a deep hole in the ground and the destruction of some pictures by exposure to the weather and to water made the immediate removal of the rest necessary. It became merely a question of what museum should house them. Italy was too poor in money, perhaps too rich in other art treasures, to acquire them, and, fortunately for New York, Mr. RHINELANDER's enterprise secured them.

Here, no doubt, they can do more good than in Europe. Apart from their intrinsic merit, they will serve as an incentive or the acquisition of other originals.

**Reliance and Shamrock III.**

The time set for the international yacht race is coming along "with a bone in its mouth." Thus far, in spite of all the tuning among the aspirants for the defence, and between the challenger and her old trial horse, no strong line can be made fast to the mooring of confidence on either side. Every attempt at scientific comparison has resulted in a confusing snarl sufficient to puzzle the wisest watermen.

Recently, after the trials on the Sound, it was thought that the old Columbia was a back number, outclassed by Reliance and Constitution. Then oceanic conditions changed sufficiently to make Columbia look a little like a match for Reliance in weather and water such as are frequently found outside of Sandy Hook. But that speculation faded away when Constitution again came into prominence.

On Thursday last the Reliance put old Columbia into a fog and gave her the most dreadful thrashing she ever received, and that, too, apparently, in Columbia's own weather. On the very day when Reliance won that victory, Shamrock III. was beaten by Shamrock I. by more than five minutes over a thirty-mile course.

Cheers are in order, but let them not be too loud. We should not make haste to forget that Shamrock I., the defeated one of four years ago, came close enough on Monday last behind the challenger to beat the best time that the Reliance, so far, has ever made over a thirty-mile course. This would seem at least to indicate that Shamrock I. is, as her specially devoted friends claim, a very much improved boat.

On the other hand, it must be noted that Reliance has displayed from time to time some phenomenal bursts of speed, equal, if not superior, modestly speaking, to any that Shamrock III. has as yet achieved.

And there stand the indications, with the trial races proper still to be heard from; and there seems to be little doubt in regard to their result.

Then let us take courage and comfort in the prediction of old Captain HANK HAFF: "The races for the America's Cup this year will be the closest and the grandest that were ever seen in American waters."

Let us hope that the spray may sparkle splendidly on August 20; that it may continue to glitter till the end of the races, and that the result may depend, not upon the whims of the wind, but upon the merits of the victor and the skill of her skipper.

Dr. A. N. JACKSON has demonstrated the possibility of making a trip in a motor vehicle across the United States. This pioneer of his kind expects to arrive in New York today, and thus complete his long overland journey from San Francisco. He started on May 23.

This transcontinental tour was not attempted for the purpose of creating a sensational record, or of boasting of any particular make of automobile. It was undertaken, we are assured, merely for the pleasure to be found in it. Dr. JACKSON is accompanied by his chauffeur and a valet, and a driver.

A reporter of the *Post-Express* of Rochester, who interviewed the doctor on his arrival in that town last Thursday morning, has obtained some interesting facts concerning his remarkable trip. The party was stranded in almost every State through which it passed, and more than a dozen times the machine had to be hauled out of mudholes. Nevertheless, it met with no serious accident. The tires on the front wheels were those with which it left the Pacific Coast, while the rear tires "were changed" twice times, that is, generally necessary to change them, in the same period, on automobile used on good roads. The mud guards suffered to some extent, and dirt often clogged parts of the machine.

ery, but otherwise the vehicle is to-day "as sound as a bell," having covered between 8,000 and 9,000 miles.

Dr. JACKSON invites particular attention to what he regards as a valuable lesson taught by his adventure. "From the day we started," says he, "we have been treated with extreme kindness and courtesy by the people through whose country we have passed; and the fact has been strongly impressed on my mind that it is the conduct of the 'autoist,' himself, which determines the spirit in which he will be received."

Considering the rapid progress which is being made in highway construction throughout the Union, it ought not to be many years before automobilists will be able to make the run from coast to coast with comfort and in one-half the time consumed by Dr. JACKSON—the first automobile to make the run in this manner—accomplishing this feat. With good roads the greater part of the way, it is possible to conceive of a more pleasurable trip than one from New York to California?

Philadelphia has a policeman of originality, even of genius. The other day he arrested some men whom he accused of loitering at certain corners. In court the men asserted that they were employees of department stores, who were taking the open air at the corners in their "lunch hour." The policeman stated the case against them in this impressive way:

"That's my beat down there, and I think it's my duty to protect my constituents. Two of the fellows were smoking pipes, and these fellows smoke cigars. They just stand around and blow cigarette smoke in the windows, and I decided I wouldn't have it. These fellows I stand them at day and never buy a drink. So I stand them in."

It is painful to have to say that the Magistrate was too dull or conservative to comprehend the singular ingenuity of this theory of the duty of policemen and the rights of a saloonkeeper.

## Will Her.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir, I have read with interest the editorial on the James McNeill Whistler in THE SUN of last Sunday. My surprise would have been that you would give to the art of Whistler generous and adequate recognition.

As an admirer of Whistler, the painter, as well as Whistler, the etcher, I cannot refrain from appealing from the depreciation of that editorial to the "appreciation" which appeared in THE SUN on Nov. 3, 1901, and which I have seen quoted as "one of the most competent and judicious of Whistler's art."

The editorial says: "Whistler in earlier life was a real etcher, really the first of the nineteenth century. The number of his plates of the best quality is comparatively small. He soon lost his power, or the incentive to exercise it. His hand degenerated; his work became trivial and insincere. As a painter, none of his pictures will ever explain to posterity the reputation, or the apparent reputation, that he enjoyed during his lifetime."

The appreciation says, after referring to the influence which may have affected Whistler's work in painting: "Out of these various influences, his own personality, irresistibly original, at once fanciful and penetrating, serene and nervous, permeated with the quietness of sensuous refinement, he has fashioned for himself a language full of the subtlest of the 'fin spirit' in the strictest sense original and stamped with style—a style that is simple, earnest, grand." While of Whistler as an etcher it says: "In the 'Little French Series' (1880), the 'Thames Series' (1871), the 'Venice Series' (1880), and the 'Second Venice Series' (1887), as well as in other plates etched in France, Holland and Belgium, he has proved himself the greatest master of the needle since Rembrandt."

That the opinion thus expressed of Whistler as a painter will stand substantially unshaken by the test of time, I think, seem clear to any one who is familiar with "The Parlor at Mr. Mother's," "The White Girl," "Miss Alexander," "Miss Rosa Cordier," "Carlyle," "Sarasate," "The Yellow Buskin," "The Andalusian," "The Little White Girl," "The Piano," "The Music Room," "The Boat," "Battersea Beach," "Bognor," "Off Diaper," and "Westminster Bridge," among Whistler's paintings, even without regard to the many exquisite and beautiful water colors and pastels which come from his hand.

As regards the etchings, I must protest against the suggestion that Whistler's hand ever degenerated, or that his work became trivial and insincere. On the contrary, his modern etching, published in 1899, shows a firmness of hand and mastery of detail quite as remarkable as the powers of execution disclosed in the finest of the Thames etchings, and my conviction is that in all his art work Whistler was sincere.

So far from accepting the dictum that "the number of his plates of the best quality is comparatively small," I claim that the number is astonishingly large, and I predict that his entire etched work, as well as the earlier plates, the ultimate judgment of those who appreciate the highest qualities of etching will rank Whistler as at least the equal of Rembrandt.

While Whistler's personal peculiarities and eccentricities made him open to the more or less well-founded charge of undue egotism and vanity, and his writings seemed to show that he had given etching as much thought as he might to give to any other art, it is but just to say that there are those—myself among the number—whose personal relations with Whistler have continued for years friendly, and even cordial, and remained unbroken to the time of his death.

HOWARD MARSHFIELD.

NEW YORK, July 24.

## The Last of the Romans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Hated and feared by many, Clay was admired and venerated all over Kentucky—and nowhere else could he have been so well understood. Every true son of the dark and booby ground and the haunted waters who read THE SUN's tribute to Gen. Clay will feel proud of old Kentucky and her rough old men, who have had old Hewitt and Achilles put together, and have whipped the Seven Champions of Christendom hand running.

Namby pamboy and the like failed my scorn, but upon just such occasions our country has risen and upon such must endure.

The general was but an intense and exaggerated expression of primitive, blue Anglo-Saxon instinct and character. A pure blooded Anglo-Saxon, a natural aristocrat of the highest ancestry, of the purest blood, of the best and oldest pedigree this world has seen, the pure white race, this world has seen none more worthy of being had this tough old gamecock and his hot spots.

NEW YORK, July 24. AMON R. JERKINS.

## Mental and Verbal Assent in a Marriage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: If I rightly understand the argument of the Rev. Dr. Hagan in defence of Pope Pius VII. in the matter of the divorce of Napoleon, it implies that any man can secure a divorce from his life partner by alleging that at the time of the celebration of the marriage he had not given his mental assent, although he had given his verbal assent, and that divorce for Catholics becomes a very easy matter, for those able to bear the expense of an ecclesiastical court.

It would be a trifling matter to rid yourself of a wife by merely alleging that you had not given mental assent to the marriage, and if this could be done with the sanction of the Roman Catholic Church, the divorce of Napoleon from Josephine would be a simple matter. The divorce of Napoleon from Josephine would be a simple matter. The divorce of Napoleon from Josephine would be a simple matter.

## The Salvation of Infants.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: This quotation from a letter printed in THE SUN on Saturday, July 18, signed "Religiousist":

"The great majority of theologians hold that unbaptized infants who die in infancy are simply excluded from heaven. St. Thomas of Aquin says that they do not go to heaven because they are not in God's good and in many natural perfection, and he believed that they have full natural happiness."

The following quotation is from an old book, little known nowadays, but containing an interesting "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Mr. A. J. W. H. KILMAN.

PRINCETON, N. J., July 25.

## RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

Any Preferential Offer by Great Britain Will Not Be Incompatible With It.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—A local newspaper quotes a member of the National Reciprocity League, who was sent to Ottawa and other places, as saying that after conversations with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others he found that there has been no change in the attitude of the Canadian Government toward reciprocity with the United States. He found the feeling quite general, and shared by the Canadian Government, that such a preferential as Great Britain might offer would not necessarily be incompatible with reciprocity with the United States. It was thought that Great Britain would not offer such preferential as would be of any value to the eastern and more thickly settled parts of Canada. If it is extended only to breadstuffs, the maritime provinces and Quebec would have no interest whatever in it, and Ontario but little.

Sir Wilfrid expected to ask a personal interview with Senator Fairbanks of the Joint High Commission about the middle of August, with the idea of calling for a meeting of the Joint High Commission at Washington in that fall. The last report that he found some tendency in Washington to place a misconception upon Sir Wilfrid's delay in asking for a meeting with Senator Fairbanks, but the general understanding was that it was for Sir Wilfrid to make the next move, and all that could be done in Washington was to await his action.

In his official report the agent quotes one of the leading owners of fishing fleets at Gloucester, who is also a large fish dealer and who has been for twenty-five years the chief opponent of a free fish treaty with Canada. He contended that so long as Canada proposed a free interchange of raw materials only they felt that they should stubbornly stand out against the treaty; but, their interests being so insignificant in comparison with other great industries of the country, they appreciated that their opposition would no longer be effective when Canada makes concessions in the way of reduction of duties on manufactured articles.

This statement practically presents the real situation, says the agent. "If Canada will give us concessions on manufactures, as she must and as we have every reason to believe she will, a treaty of reciprocity that will not meet with much opposition from this quarter, if from any other. I found many men in Gloucester who said that under the present tariff they were in force from 1874 to 1886 Gloucester had its greatest era of prosperity."

## ADJUSTING AMERICAN CLAIMS.

The Venezuela Claims Commission Making Satisfactory Progress.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The American-Venezuela Claims Commission has already made good headway in adjusting claims of American citizens against the Government of Venezuela, in accordance with the terms of the protocol signed here by Secretary Hay and Herbert W. Bowen, and the papers in a number of completed cases have reached the State Department. These involved small amounts and were adjusted without the necessity of calling upon the umpire appointed by the Queen of the Netherlands to settle the dispute. The umpire has not yet been called upon to attempt to collect any of these claims until the Hague tribunal has passed upon the contention of England, Germany and Italy that they are entitled to have their claims paid first.

## Substance Instead of Fancy in the Schools.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: While living in New Haven, in the shadow of a great university, an opportunity was afforded me to study the public schools of that city. In the grammar schools I found that the three R's were sadly neglected, while the "frills" predominated—fancy working, light housekeeping, plain sewing, moulding, drawing, singing, gymnastics and, last but not least, farming a la mode—that is, planting beans in flowerpots, was paramount.

Turning my attention to the lower lights I chanced to meet a girl who was reaching her brains over her arithmetic. Fonder over it! Here was a child who had just got through common fractions when she was made to jump into elementary algebra. Instead of following the other scholars who received fractions, she must first obtain a smattering of something which nine out of ten do not have time for and do not need, as the majority of our public school pupils never go further than the grammar school.

Then I met a boy from New York who was visiting his uncle in New Haven. An accomplished gentleman and interested in anything that pertains to education. So one day, the boy and I went to the school where he was mentioned that he was learning French. "Let me hear you say the alphabet," said the teacher. (Oh, said the boy, "We haven't learned that yet, but only words.") No comment is necessary, only that the average child in our schools is not taught to read, speak or write with accuracy or fluency.

But the climax is not reached. A business man in Hartford told me that he advertised in the *Register* for a high school graduate to fill a place in his office. Receiving forty applications, he chose twelve of the best worded and written letters, and sent for the respective authors. He only put one question to them, namely, "What is the interest on \$3 at 3 per cent for three months?" Not one of the twelve could give the answer.

The cause is really found, and the remedy is at hand. Simplify our school system, prune out the useless, and devote so much attention paid to motives and pictures plastered all over our school walls. A picture of a motto never makes a man more intelligent; but let us have thorough discipline and close application to a few things. These are better than the present and sentimentalizing. Then, if our progress is slow, we can say with the poet, "Was im Menschen nicht kommt auch nicht aus ihm." NORWALK, Conn., July 23.

## Man's Inhumanity to Man.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: My suggestion as to the making of a law which would be in the interest of humanity, not against many of these actors do "part" singing so badly that it would be in the interest of humanity to the audience to have them sing with their mouths shut, or get instruction in "part" singing from some competent teacher. E. H. JOHNS.

NEW YORK, July 25.

## Trevelin's.

"Stella—How did Mabel come to buy the duke?"

Bella—Well, you see he offered trading stamps with himself.

## The Same Dear Girl.

Down at Atlantic City she's a squirming. A dream of rapture in exquisite haze. Especially when hugging terra firma And digging crabs with daintiest of toes.

At Saratoga she's lolling by the lakelet. And dreaming dreams of Cholly who's at home—More like she's growing to the land's end. On a still hunt for wads of chewing gum.

At Richmond Springs she turns her dainty nose up. And sighs: "There's something awful in the air. One week has passed, and she's bravely gone. And down her dose of sulphur then and there."

In the White Mountains she's quite a hiker—The h's furcated I am told's the best. For climbing when the climber is a piker. And likewise when she's a ride for rest.

At Albany the little dear's repented. And never, never wears her anywhere. She reads good books all day and is contented. With any sort of subject that is there.

At Newport she's a barbeque! and squalling. Dividing her attention just as she can. So clever, debonair and ever smiling. With any eye open for the proper man.

At Long Branch she's lolling on the sands. Delightful, darning beach as of the yore. With something that is very close and hands. A man, oh my! she never meets before.